

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A knowledge switch comprising:
 - (a) a logic kernel for ~~accessing information and distributing the information to~~ users receiving event information regarding a security event for which an information alert has been defined, for locating the corresponding information alert, and for automatically distributing the information alert to intended recipients;
 - (b) a content database accessible by the logic kernel for storing information received from public and private computer networks, the information including the information alert;
 - (c) a ~~profile~~ profiles module for storing user profiles including information for distributing the information stored in the content database to ~~[[users]]~~ the intended recipients;
 - (d) a plurality of input/output modules for ~~contacting end-users~~ distributing the information alert to the intended recipients via defined user devices; and
 - (e) ~~a plurality of templates for configuring logic kernel to distribute specific information to targeted groups of users~~ a knowledge switch configurator including functionality for allowing an administrator to define the event information, the information alert to be associated with the event information, and content to be included in the information alert, the content including a directive for instructing the intended recipients regarding action to be taken in response to the security event.

2. (Currently Amended) The knowledge switch of claim 1 wherein the logic kernel includes software that is configurable by end users or administrators using [[the]] templates provided by the knowledge switch configurator.
3. (Currently Amended) The knowledge switch of claim 1 wherein the ~~profile~~ profiles module stores media portals defined by end users.
4. (Original) The knowledge switch of claim 1 wherein the input/output modules include a web server for sending and receiving information via the Internet.
5. (Original) The knowledge switch of claim 1 wherein the input/output modules include a wireless PDA server for sending information to and receiving information from a wireless PDA.
6. (Currently Amended) The knowledge switch of claim 1 wherein the input/output modules include a phone alert server for automatically ~~contacting a plurality of end-users~~ distributing the information alert to the intended recipients via a telephone network.
7. (Currently Amended) The knowledge switch of claim 1 wherein the ~~knowledge switch includes~~ input/output modules include a fax, email, and SMS server for sending and receiving messages in fax, email, and SMS format.
8. (Currently Amended) The knowledge switch of claim 1 ~~wherein the templates include~~ comprising an event template associated with the knowledge switch configurator, the event template including customizable fields for configuring the logic kernel to deliver ~~alert messages~~ information alerts to individuals the intended recipients in response to defined events event triggers, wherein the

event triggers are activatable by at least one of: authorized individuals, devices, and an inference engine programmed to predict an emergency.

9. (Currently Amended) The knowledge switch of claim 8 wherein the event template includes a customizable field for configuring the logic kernel to deliver different ~~alert messages~~ information alerts to different individuals.
10. (Currently Amended) The knowledge switch of claim 1 ~~wherein the templates include~~ comprising a contact list template associated with the knowledge switch configurator, the contact list template including customizable fields for providing an individual's contact information to the logic kernel.
11. (Currently Amended) The knowledge switch of claim 10 ~~wherein the templates include~~ comprising a schedule template associated with the profiles module, the schedule template including an interface for allowing individuals the intended recipients to associate the contact information with schedule information.
12. (Currently Amended) The knowledge switch of claim 1 ~~wherein the templates include~~ comprising an intra-agency knowledge switch management template associated with the knowledge switch configurator, the intra-agency knowledge switch management template comprising an interface for configuring the logic kernel to distribute ~~alert messages~~ information alerts to predetermined individuals within an organization.
13. (Currently Amended) The knowledge switch of claim 1 ~~wherein the templates include~~ comprising an inter-agency knowledge switch management template associated with the knowledge switch configurator, the inter-agency knowledge switch management template comprising an interface for configuring the logic

kernel to distribute ~~alert messages~~ different information alerts to different groups of individuals.

14. (Currently Amended) A hierarchical system of knowledge switches for delivering alerts to end users, the system comprising:

(a) a plurality of first knowledge switches located at predetermined points of presence for ~~receiving alerts~~ receiving security event information, for locating corresponding information alerts, and for distributing the information alerts over a computer network, wherein the information alerts each include a directive for instructing intended recipients on action to be taken in response to the corresponding security event; and

(b) a plurality of second knowledge switches located at predetermined agencies, the second knowledge switches being coupled to the first knowledge switches via the computer network, each second knowledge switch being configured to receive the information alerts, apply a policy level to the information alerts, and distribute the information alerts to selected end users associated with each second knowledge switch based on the policy level.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14 wherein the first and second knowledge switches include ~~templates~~ knowledge switch configurators for defining information alerts and individuals for receiving the information alerts.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14 wherein the first and second knowledge switches are adapted to distribute the information alerts based on end user and agency certificate levels.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~distributing and accessing information~~ defining and distributing information alerts, the method comprising:
- (a) presenting a user with a plurality of templates for configuring a knowledge switch to ~~deliver alerts to intended recipients~~ identify event information regarding a security event, to provide an information alert including user-defined content, and to automatically distribute the information alert to the intended recipients in response to receiving the event information;
 - (b) receiving, via the templates, event definition information for defining ~~events and associated alerts~~ the security event and receiving content for the information alert to be delivered to the intended recipients, wherein receiving content for the information alert includes receiving a directive instructing the intended recipients on how to respond to the security event;
 - (c) receiving, via the templates, contact and schedule information for defining information alert delivery modes and corresponding times for each of the intended recipients; and
 - (d) automatically distributing the ~~alerts~~ information alert to the intended recipients using the information provided via the templates.
18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein presenting the user with a plurality of templates includes presenting the user with a plurality of templates via a computer network interface.
19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein receiving event definition information and content includes receiving access information, user information, and triggered alert information via an event template.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein the access information includes spoken commands for communicating an event to a knowledge switch via a mobile or landline telephone, the user information includes ~~[[a]] the directive to be delivered to the intended recipients,~~ and the triggered alerts information includes ~~alert messages to be delivered to each of the intended recipients or groups of intended recipients~~ an alert message to be included in the information alert.
21. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein receiving contact and schedule information includes receiving contact information from intended recipients via a contact list template that includes fields for allowing each recipient to input contact information and receiving schedule information via a schedule template including a graphical schedule interface that allows each recipient to associate contact information with the schedule information.
22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein distributing the ~~alerts~~ information alert to the intended recipients using the information provided by via templates includes, for each recipient, accessing contact and schedule information stored for each recipient, converting the information alert to the appropriate format based on the contact and schedule information, and delivering the information alert via a medium specified by the contact and schedule information.
23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein distributing the ~~alerts~~ information alert to the intended recipients includes delivering the ~~alerts~~ information alert via a telephone network to all recipients in a geographic area.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein distributing the alerts information alert to the intended recipients includes parsing the alerts information alert based on recipient certificate levels and selectively delivering portions of the alerts information alert to the ~~end-users~~ intended recipients based on individual end user certificate levels.
25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 comprising, determining whether receipt confirmation is required from each recipient, and, in response to determining that receipt confirmation is required, resending the information alert if receipt confirmation is not received within a predetermined time period.
26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 comprising, determining whether a response is required from each recipient, and, in response to determining that the response is required, resending the information alert if the response is not received within a predetermined time period.
27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 comprising including an authentication portion in the information alert for allowing the intended recipients to authenticate the alerts information alert.
28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 comprising receiving input from the intended recipients for storing the alerts information alert in a predetermined format, and, in response, storing the alerts information alert for later access by the intended recipients.
29. (New) The knowledge switch of claim 1 wherein the event information includes an event identifier for allowing a user to inform the logic kernel of the occurrence of the event.

30. (New) The knowledge switch of claim 1 wherein the event information includes information generated by a machine in response to the occurrence of the event.
31. (New) The knowledge switch of claim 1 wherein the knowledge switch configurator is adapted to allow the administrator to configure the logic kernel regarding input expected from the intended recipients in response to the directive.
32. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the event comprises an airport security event.
33. (New) The system of claim 14 wherein the event information includes an event identifier for allowing a user to inform the first knowledge switches of the occurrence of the event.
34. (New) The system of claim 14 wherein the event information includes information generated by a machine in response to the occurrence of the event.
35. (New) The system of claim 14 wherein the second knowledge switches are configured to expect predetermined input from the intended recipients in response to the directives.
36. (New) The system of claim 14 wherein the event comprises an airport security event.
37. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the event information includes an event identifier for allowing a user to communicate the occurrence of the event to a knowledge switch.
38. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the event information includes information generated by a machine in response to the occurrence of the event.

39. (New) The method of claim 17 comprising configuring a knowledge switch to expect predetermined input from the intended recipients in response to the directive.
40. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the event comprises an airport security event.

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IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the original Abstract with the attached replacement Abstract.